

uniform while fighting to protect our interests and spread democracy worldwide.

While many of these patriots gave their lives on the battlefield, survivors such as Jose Bunda lived to tell some of the horrific events he endured. His firsthand accounts show the realities of WWII. They are gut-wrenching but show the human will to survive.

Today I wish to recognize the service and sacrifice of one of our veterans from the 'Greatest Generation' who stood in the face of danger: Jose Bunda. He is a true American hero who lived through the worst days of war and told his heroic story of survival.

Mr. Bunda grew up in the Philippines and joined the U.S. Army after graduating from high school when he was 18. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Mr. Bunda was stationed on Corregidor Island.

In 1942, Mr. Bunda was defending the island against the Japanese and although his squad was able to hold its ground, he and his comrades were forced to surrender.

The realities of war Mr. Bunda experienced is something he always remembered. Almost 60 years after he was taken prisoner he recalled it as one of the worst times of his life in a story published in the Times Record.

Mr. Bunda detailed how he was piled into a boxcar for a ride that lasted 18 hours. Once the train stopped at Camp Duo he was forced on the infamous Bataan Death March where he walked day and night with no food.

"Once you fall down, they shoot you or chop off your head," Mr. Bunda said in a 1999 interview saying it was a miracle that he survived.

He was a prisoner of war for 2 years, working in a Japanese labor camp but escaped and joined a guerrilla unit until the end of the war.

Mr. Bunda's will to survive triumphed over the atrocities he was put through in WWII. Despite all the hardships, violence and massacres he witnessed, he remained committed to the military and continued his service in the Korean War.

Mr. Bunda and his wife Rosario came to the United States in 1957 when he was stationed at Fort Chaffee. Although his career required him to move to other military bases, the couple moved back to Arkansas in 1962 once he retired from the military after 30 years of service.

In 2000, Mr. Bunda received many of the medals, awards and recognitions he deserved for his heroics and service. Of his 16 medals, he said he was proudest of his Silver Star and the Prisoner of War medals.

A veteran, a POW and a member of Disabled American Veterans, Mr. Bunda lived his life as a loving husband, devoted father and an inspirational grandfather. Today we honor the life and legacy Mr. Bunda leaves behind. His heroic tales of survival and commitment to service have ensured he will be remembered with the highest

regard as a great American hero. His sacrifices made to secure victory and peace for all freedom loving people of the world will never be forgotten.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme, UCWIP. Our Nation has benefited from the service of outstanding Australian college students who participate in internships throughout the U.S. Congress through this program.

The program is providing students with the opportunity to obtain considerable experience through their congressional internships, while also making available other educational experiences throughout their time in the United States. Uni-Capitol Washington Programme interns have helped me serve Idaho constituents, and I am grateful for their efforts and dedication.

Chris Colalillo, a UCWIP participant, has joined my staff as an intern this semester. Chris is studying bachelor's of law and arts at the University of Western Australia, where he is double majoring in political science and international relations and ancient history. When he graduates, Chris plans to work in a law firm and eventually go into Federal or State politics. Chris has been great to work with, and he was very quick to learn his role and responsibilities in the office. He is very intelligent, eager, and always puts forward his best work. He has shared with us some of the political and cultural differences between the United States and Australia, and it has been a great learning experience for both Chris and the staff.

Chris shared his impressions regarding the program and his internship. He said:

The UCWIP has been a unique opportunity to further my knowledge in the legislative process of the United States, enabling me to develop an appreciation for democratic systems of government as well as providing me with practical experience that will facilitate my theoretical studies in Political Science and International Relations. The welcoming nature of the staff within Senator CRAPO's office has made this internship an enjoyable experience thus far.

Eric Federer, UCWIP's director and founder, has successfully focused his Capitol Hill and Australia experiences to provide this valuable educational exchange opportunity that benefits Australian students and congressional offices. His dedication to advancing this learning experience is remarkable.

I have been honored to have worked with the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme for 5 years. The program is shaping young leaders who are helping to deepen understanding between our two nations while providing outstanding constituent support. I commend Chris Colalillo, Eric Federer, and the other Uni-Capitol

Washington Internship Programme participants and interns for their achievements and wish them continued success.●

#### RECOGNIZING BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NEW YORK

● Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of National Mentoring Month. This month we recognize the millions of Americans who have joined together to better the lives of others, especially our youth, through the gift of mentorship. The generosity and willingness of individuals to work together for the common good has been a hallmark of the American character since our Nation's founding.

Every day volunteer organizations across the country make substantial contributions to our Nation by fostering a place and sense of mentorship. One such extraordinary organization is the Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City. Founded in 1906, Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City is the oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the United States, serving more than 3,000 young people annually. The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City is to provide mentors to all children who need caring adult role models. These mentors change the lives of New York City's youth by expanding their horizons and helping them to realize their potential.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City is unique in that it offers a variety of individualized mentoring programs that match dedicated mentors, or Bigs, to special populations of youth, or Littles. These include a New American Mentoring Program for immigrant youth, a Young Mothers Mentoring Program for pregnant teens or teenage mothers, an Incredible Kids Mentoring Program for children with a learning or physical disability or chronic disease, a Building Futures Mentoring Program for youth who are in the foster care system, and a Children of Promise Mentoring Program for children who have an incarcerated parent, sibling, or family member. Two additional special mentoring programs offered at Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City that have a national significance are their 9/11 Together We Stand and FDNY Partnership Programs. These are unique mentoring programs for children who lost a parent or close relative in the World Trade Center attacks and those who lost a parent in the FDNY in the line of duty, including but not limited to September 11. So as you can see, Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City is doing their part to ensure that all children have positive role models in their life no matter what their circumstances may be.

National Mentoring Month highlights the need and significance of mentors and mentoring for individuals of all ages. From organizations to individuals, mentoring enriches children's education and overall success in life.